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RAD NEWSLETTER

August 1965

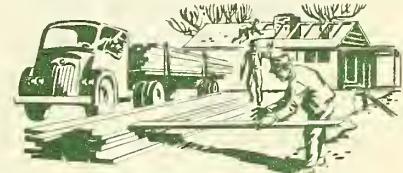
No. 70

DO-IT-YOURSELF HOUSING PAYS OFF FOR SIX RURAL FAMILIES

Six rural families who built their own houses with \$6,500 loans from the Farmers Home Administration got a real payoff:

Each now owns a home valued at \$10,000 to \$11,500 and two of the men found better-paying jobs with their new home-building skills.

The experiment began one year ago in a rural community near Bridgeton, New Jersey. The six families, who had incomes ranging from \$42 to \$67 a week, obtained loans of \$6,500 each to buy building materials and fixtures.



Contractors were hired to dig the foundation, and to install electricity and the plumbing, but the families did the rest of the work. The Farmers Home Administration hired an experienced building contractor to advise them.

FHA is now looking into ways it can expand this approach and use it in other areas.

GEORGIA COUNTY FORGES AHEAD UNDER RAD

Local people have scored impressive gains in Worth County, Georgia since County Agent Joel B. Gunnells encouraged them to organize a Rural Areas Development effort in November of 1960.

In a recent progress report, Gunnells cites these gains:

"In 1959, Worth County ranked eighth in the State in value of all farm products sold -- \$10 million worth. In 1964, the value of farm products sold exceeded \$18.5 million -- an increase, over a 5 year period of approximately 60 percent.

"Twelve new industrial firms have been established in Worth County since the fall of 1962. They include five farm supply firms, three wood manufacturing companies, a textile plant, a meat packer, a builder of mobile homes, and a builder of truck bodies."

Gunnells reports retail sales in the county increased more than \$2.5 million in a two-year period and there have been improvements in "living standards, education, and social atmosphere" -- all the result of fundamental concepts of total resource development advocated by local RAD leaders.

The City of Sylvester, the county seat, installed a complete natural gas system with money borrowed from the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

USDA PASSES THE 10,000 MARK IN TWO WAR ON POVERTY PROGRAMS

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has made its 10,000th "war on poverty" loan, and the 10,000th person to enter the Job Corps has been assigned to a Conservation Center run by the Department.

Secretary Orville L. Freeman announced the 10,000th rural Economic Opportunity loan in mid-July. It went to Sam Newton of Sampson County, North Carolina, a timber cutter and father of seven.

Last year, Newton earned \$2,000. With his \$1,800 loan from the Farmers Home Administration, he bought a chain saw and used truck. He expects to increase his income to \$3,500 and to hire two part-time helpers now that he has the saw and truck.

Since making the 10,000th loan, the Department has made 1,726 more rural Economic Opportunity loans, or a total of 11,726 loans for \$20 million.

The 10,000th Job Corps enrollee was John Rutkowski of Northfield, Connecticut. Rutkowski was assigned to the Mountainair Conservation Center, operated by USDA's Forest Service in New Mexico. The Forest Service now has 23 Job Corps Conservation Centers in operation, providing job training and education for 3,424 young men.

In addition to the individual loans, the Department has made 83 Economic Opportunity loans totaling \$1.6 million to cooperatives serving predominantly low-income people. These have ranged from a \$660 loan to 3 Georgia farmers to buy a cotton sprayer and rotary mower to \$700,000 to 1,700 farm families in North Carolina to build a grain elevator.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP APPROVES HEALTH PROJECTS



The President's Rural Development Committee has approved a series of pilot health projects, including mobile health units and possible financial support for group health insurance in rural areas, to close the "health gap" between rural and urban areas.

The committee, representing 11 Federal departments

and independent agencies, also called for further study of a proposal to establish a special rural health unit under leadership of the Office of Economic Opportunity to deal with the heavy health needs of the disadvantaged and poverty-stricken.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Committee Chairman, said the group acted after getting a report that, among other things:

* Infant mortality rates among the rural nonwhite (chiefly Negro) are as high now as 25 years ago, and more than double the infant mortality rate in metropolitan areas.

* Rural people lack a base for group health insurance, and because they have a high concentration of the Nation's poverty (47 percent of the poverty with only 28 percent of the population) they often are unable to afford the higher cost of individual policies.

The areas where the rural health projects will be tested will be selected later.

The Cabinet-level Committee also voted to set up at least five pilot projects in low-income rural communities to test methods for combatting the problems of rural children and youth.

The pilot projects would make available to local people the various Federal and State programs that would enable them to obtain the best possible health, education, guidance, job training, and social welfare services.

REPORT SHOWS RAD COMMITTEES AND EXTENSION AGENTS ACTIVE IN WAR ON POVERTY

A quarterly report of Rural Areas Development activities shows local RAD committees and cooperative extension agents have taken the lead in organizing rural Community Action Programs to combat poverty.

The report, by the Federal Extension Service, indicates that as of May 1, 1965, 1,044 counties in 34 States had organized, or were in the process of organizing, Community Action Programs (CAP). Cooperative extension agents had helped develop 854 of these CAP's, while RAD committees had helped organize 527 others.

The Office of Economic Opportunity reports that as of June 30, 1965, it had made grants totaling \$9.5 million for 202 rural Community Action Programs covering 361 counties. Of this, \$2.5 million was to help local people develop community action programs in 124 of the areas, and \$7 million was to finance community action projects in the other 78 areas.

WATERSHED PROJECTS AND RESEARCH CENTER OKAYED FOR APPALACHIA

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has approved the first three

watershed project loans, totaling slightly more than \$1.3 million, made from funds provided by the Appalachian program, and he also has announced plans for a plant materials center financed by Appalachian funds.



A \$1 million loan went to the city of Princeton, West Virginia to help finance construction of a watershed project reservoir for municipal water storage, flood prevention, and recreation. Two loans, totaling \$335,740, will help pay local costs for 4 multi-purpose reservoirs in the Pine Creek Watershed project in Scott County, Tennessee. The reservoirs will provide municipal water storage, recreation, and reduce flooding.

The plant material center will be built at Quicksand, Kentucky by USDA's Soil Conservation Service to find and develop plants that are especially adapted to improving land and wildlife resources in Appalachia.

ALABAMA AND MAINE PUBLISH RECREATION DIRECTORIES

Alabama and Maine are two of the latest States to publish directories that lists privately-owned outdoor recreation facilities.

Auburn University Extension Service compiled the Alabama directory, which lists nearly 600 different rural recreational spots, with information on their location, facilities, and the fees that they charge. County extension agents and Extension's RAD specialists gathered the information for the directory.

The directories are being distributed through county agents' offices to motels, hotels, sporting goods stores, service stations, bait farms, boat docks, and other recreation areas.

The University of Maine Agricultural Experiment Station -- as part of a comprehensive study for the Governor's Advisory Council on Outdoor Recreation -- surveyed hunting and fishing camps in Maine. The resulting directory, which lists location, facilities and activities for both children and adults (most cater to families), fees, and how to make reservations, was published and distributed by the Maine Extension Service.